DEMAND XXIV—MEDICAL.

Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai (*Surgeon General*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 11,25,583 under Demand XXIV—Medical.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: Sir, in supporting the Demand I wish to say a few words about the Ophthalmic Hospital of the State. Sir, there is only one Ophthalmic Hospital to serve the need of all the people in the State, and sufficient encouragement is not being given to that institution.

The second point that I wish to say is about the location of the Small-pox Hospital at Ayiraniinuttam. The people who live in the vicinity of the hospital have made a common complaint about the nuisance of that hospital.

Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai: What is the honourable member's suggestion? Does the honourable member want to remove it outside the town?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: Sir, I want to shift the hospital from Manacaud Division and house it somewhere else.

Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai: Will not the people there make similar complaints?

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: It must be shifted to a place which is not very thickly populated.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Sir, I support the demand and at the same time I want to urge upon the desirability of giving maternity training to the male doctors in the Women and Children's Hospital at Trivandrum. At present they are not allowed to go there for training. This is urgently needed for the sake of saving the lives of the poor women who are suffering much at the hands of these male doctors without maternity training.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai; Sir, I support the demand and in so doing I want to press upon one point for the consideration of the Surgeon-General—*viz.*, the frequent and incessant transfers of Deputy Surgeons in charge of the hospitals in the mofussil centres. This policy it will be admitted on all hands causes considerable difficulty and inconvenience to people in the rural areas, where, unlike the metropolis they do not have the luxury of numerous hospitals and dispensaries. I wish, that this policy, whether necessitated by administrative conveniences or otherwise, must be given up for the safety and benefit of the people in the rural areas.

Mr. P. R. Godavarma Raja: Sir, I support the demand. At the same time I want to bring to the attention of the Surgeon-General the futility of the bi-weekly dispensaries. I hope he will see his way to abolish them or change them into daily

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

dispensaries. Sir, it is very strange that the Department seems to think that diseases come only twice a week. There are only one or two bi-weekly dispensaries in the State and there is no necessity to continue them.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Sir, in supporting this Demand I have to make only one request to the Surgeon-General *viz.*, the highly urgent necessity for the appointment of a lady doctor in the Dispensary at Haripad.

Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai: Sir, I would first answer Mr. Sankara Menon who made an observation in regard to the Ophthalmic Hospital. Now, realising there is one Ophthalmic hospital for the whole State, Government are giving all possible encouragement to that hospital. A new additional building is being built for the hospital, and this building will be ready to accommodate patients within a few months. Now, as regards the establishment in the Hospital, there are two Assistant Surgeons there doing very good work. An Ophthalmic section has been newly opened for the Kottayam District Hospital. Two volunteer specialists are working in the Quilon and Alleppey District Hospitals. Even in the Madras Presidency there is only one Ophthalmic Hospital to serve the whole province.

About the Ayiranimuttam Hospital, I may say that the place was more or less a deserted one before the advent of this institution. Because small pox is an infectious disease Government thought to have the hospital for small pox treatment away from the heart of the town and at a place which is sparsely populated. At that time Ayiranimuttam was found to be suitable. There is a three mile road from the heart of the town to reach that hospital. But in the course of the last 7 or 8 years I have been able to notice new houses are being built up daily on the sides of the road. Now it is feared that the people may even encroach upon the hospital premises (*Laughter*). I do not think that it is the fault of the Hospital or the Government that the people rush in there also.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: Have not Government received complaints with regard to the location of this hospital in that place?

Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai: Government have received complaints.

Mr. M. Govindan: May I know whether there is not a coffee hotel just in front of the hospital?

President: They are all of recent growth.

Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai: I have already stated that the buildings are all of recent growth. I may assure the honourable members of this House that in small pox cases, treatment is done

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

even in the premises of General Hospitals all over India. Even in big towns, small pox cases are not always taken far away from the town areas.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: Then may I know why should that hospital be located in the Manakaud Division only when there are other areas in Trivandrum?

Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai: That hospital is not meant for Manacaud Division alone but for the whole of Trivandrum and hence Travancore also.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon: I meant only 'location'.

Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai: It is true that men doctors are not appointed in the Women and Children's Hospital at Thycaud and Government orders are to that effect. But at present Government are trying to give all facilities for men doctors in post graduate maternity course as a result of which provision is proposed to be made shortly.

Mr. Krishna Pillai said that frequent transfer of medical officers are being effected during the middle of a year and that considerable difficulty is being caused on that account in those places. I may assure the honourable House that if there are frequent transfers they are only temporary in character and officers in charge of big hospitals have never been transferred during the middle of the year. Transfers are effected according to the necessity of the occasion and not otherwise.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: I may inform the honourable member that I also protest against these temporary transfers,

Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai: But such transfers are necessitated by men going on leave. No place will have to remain without getting medical relief.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know how many Assistant Surgeons in charge of the hospital at Neyyattinkara have been transferred within a short period of 6 months?

Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai: No assistant surgeon was put in charge of that hospital. There was one assistant surgeon for 2 months because the Deputy Surgeon in charge of that institution was on leave.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: All that I meant was how many medical officers were transferred from the Neyyattinkara hospital during the short period of 6 months? I am not concerned with technical words as Deputy or Assistant surgeons.

Dr. K. P. Raman Pillai: The doctor who was put in charge of the Neyyattinkara hospital being a senior officer was wanted for a bigger hospital and hence he was transferred. As a sort of disciplinary measure, the present man was posted to that hospital.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly